

anonymous temporary subscriber identity and for a dual anonymous communication system. This need exists both in present circuit-switched wireline and wireless networks as well as in IP based networks.

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Summary of the present invention

It is an object of the present invention to overcome or at least mitigate the disadvantages of the prior art. The present invention realizes a communications network based method for providing a communications network subscriber with an anonymous temporary subscriber identity and a dual anonymous communication system.

15 According to a first aspect of the present invention there is presented a method for providing a communications network subscriber with an anonymous temporary subscriber identity realized in a communications network having an originating party A and a terminating party B connected to the network, characterized in that the method comprises the steps of

- the terminating party B requesting an anonymous temporary subscriber identity,
- the communications network reserving an anonymous temporary subscriber identity to which the regular subscriber identity of the terminating party B in the communications network is associated,
- the communications network providing the anonymous temporary subscriber identity to the terminating party B,
- 30 - the terminating party B announcing the received anonymous temporary subscriber identity in an open forum,
- the originating party A initiating a communication path towards the anonymous temporary subscriber identity of the terminating party B in the communications network,
- 35 - the communications network establishing a communication path between the originating party A and the termi-

minating party B using the regular subscriber identity of the terminating party B associated with the anonymous temporary subscriber identity.

5 Preferably, in the method according to present invention, the terminating party B requests the anonymous temporary subscriber identity via Internet. Alternatively, the terminating party B requests the anonymous temporary subscriber identity via an SMS-interface (SMS, Short Message
10 Service). Alternatively, the terminating party B requests the anonymous temporary subscriber identity via a WAP-interface (WAP, Wireless Application Protocol). Alternatively, the terminating party B requests the anonymous temporary subscriber identity by dialing a number in the
15 communications network. Alternatively, the terminating party B requests the anonymous temporary subscriber identity via an email-interface. Preferably, the terminating party B requests several anonymous temporary subscriber identities.

20 Preferably, in the method according to present invention, the terminating party B announces the received anonymous temporary subscriber identity in Television. Alternatively, the terminating party B announces the received
25 anonymous temporary subscriber identity in a restricted open forum. More preferably, the restricted open forum is related to the service providing the anonymous temporary subscriber identity.

30 Preferably, in the method according to present invention, the originating party A initiating a communication path towards the terminating party B suppresses the subscriber identity in the communication path set up. Alternatively, the originating party A initiating a call to the terminat-
35 ing party B also uses an anonymous temporary subscriber identity provided by the communications network.

Preferably, in the method according to present invention, the terminating party B may terminate the use of the anonymous temporary subscriber identity. Preferably, the use of an anonymous temporary subscriber identity is disabled for a certain time period. Preferably, the anonymous temporary subscriber identity is anonymous temporary SIP address (SIP, Session Initiation Protocol). More preferably, the providing of the anonymous temporary SIP address is realized in an application server in an IP based network (IP, Internet Protocol). Alternatively, the providing of the anonymous temporary subscriber identity is realized in an IN platform (IN, Intelligent Network).

According to a second aspect of the present invention there is presented an arrangement for providing an arrangement for providing a communications network subscriber with an anonymous temporary subscriber identity realized in a communications network having an originating party A and a terminating party B connected to the network; the arrangement being characterized in that

- the terminating party B having means for requesting an anonymous temporary subscriber identity,
- the communications network having means for reserving an anonymous temporary subscriber identity to which the regular subscriber identity of the terminating party B in the communications network is associated,
- the communications network having means for providing the anonymous temporary subscriber identity to the terminating party B,
- the terminating party B having means for associating his regular subscriber identity with the anonymous temporary subscriber identity,
- the terminating party B having means for announcing the received anonymous temporary subscriber identity in an open forum,

- a originating party A having means for initiating a communication path towards the anonymous temporary subscriber identity of the terminating party B in the communications network,
 - 5 - the communications network having means for establishing a communication path between the originating party A and the terminating party B using the regular subscriber identity of the terminating party B associated with the anonymous temporary subscriber identity.
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- Preferably, in the arrangement according to present invention, the terminating party B requests the anonymous temporary subscriber identity via Internet. Alternatively, the terminating party B requests the anonymous temporary subscriber identity via an SMS-interface (SMS, Short Message Service). Alternatively, the terminating party B requests the anonymous temporary subscriber identity via a WAP-interface (WAP, Wireless Application Protocol). Alternatively, the terminating party B requests the anonymous temporary subscriber identity by dialing a number in the communications network. Alternatively, the terminating party B requests the anonymous temporary subscriber identity via an email-interface. Preferably, the terminating party B requests several anonymous temporary subscriber identities.
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Preferably, in the arrangement according to present invention, the terminating party B announces the received anonymous temporary subscriber identity in Television. Alternatively, the terminating party B announces the received anonymous temporary subscriber identity in a restricted open forum. More preferably, the restricted open forum is related to the service providing the anonymous temporary subscriber identity.

Preferably, in the arrangement according to present invention, the originating party A initiating a communication path towards the terminating party B suppresses the subscriber identity in the communication path set up. Alternatively, the originating party A initiating a call to the terminating party B also uses an anonymous temporary subscriber identity provided by the communications network.

Preferably, in the arrangement according to present invention, the terminating party B has means to terminate the use of the anonymous temporary subscriber identity. Preferably, the use of an anonymous temporary subscriber identity may be disabled for a certain time period. Preferably, the anonymous temporary subscriber identity is anonymous temporary SIP address (SIP, Session Initiation Protocol). More preferably, the providing of the anonymous temporary SIP address is realized in an application server in an IP based network (IP, Internet Protocol). Alternatively, the providing of the anonymous temporary subscriber identity is realized in an IN platform (IN, Intelligent Network).

Brief description of the drawings

For a better understanding of the present invention and in order to show how the same may be carried into effect reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 illustrates a dual anonymous communication system according to the present invention implemented in an IP based network.

Figure 2 illustrates a method for providing a communications network subscriber with an anonymous temporary subscriber identity according to the present invention.

Claims

1. A method for providing a communications network subscriber with an anonymous temporary subscriber identity realized in a communications network having an originating party A and a terminating party B connected to the network, characterized in that the method comprises the steps of
- the terminating party B requesting an anonymous temporary subscriber identity (7),
 - the communications network reserving an anonymous temporary subscriber identity to which the regular subscriber identity of the terminating party B in the communications network is associated (8),
 - the communications network providing the anonymous temporary subscriber identity to the terminating party B (9),
 - the terminating party B announcing the received anonymous temporary subscriber identity in an open forum (10),
 - the originating party A initiating a communication path towards the anonymous temporary subscriber identity of the terminating party B in the communications network (11),
 - the communications network establishing a communication path between the originating party A and the terminating party B using the regular subscriber identity of the terminating party B associated with the anonymous temporary subscriber identity (12).
2. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the terminating party B requests the anonymous temporary subscriber identity via Internet.

3. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the terminating party B requests the anonymous temporary subscriber identity via an SMS-interface.

5 4. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the terminating party B requests the anonymous temporary subscriber identity via a WAP-interface.

5. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that
10 the terminating party B requests the anonymous temporary subscriber identity by dialing a number in the communications network.

6. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that
15 the terminating party B requests the anonymous temporary subscriber identity via an email-interface.

7. A method according to any of the claims 1-6, characterized in that the terminating party B requests several
20 anonymous temporary subscriber identities.

8. A method according to any of the claims 1-7, characterized in that the terminating party B announces the received anonymous temporary subscriber identity in Television.
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9. A method according to any of the claims 1-7, characterized in that the terminating party B announces the received anonymous temporary subscriber identity in a restricted open forum.
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10. A method according to the claim 9, characterized in that the restricted open forum is related to the service providing the anonymous temporary subscriber identity.

11. A method according to any of the claims 1-10, characterized in that the originating party A initiating a communication path towards the terminating party B suppresses the subscriber identity in the communication path
5 set up.

12. A method according to any of the claims 1-10, characterized in that the originating party A initiating a call to the terminating party B also uses an anonymous
10 temporary subscriber identity provided by the communications network.

13. A method according to any of the claims 1-12, characterized in that the terminating party B may terminate
15 the use of the anonymous temporary subscriber identity.

14. A method according to any of the claims 1-13, characterized in that the use of an anonymous temporary subscriber identity is disabled for a certain time period.
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15. A method according to any of the claims 1-14, characterized in that the anonymous temporary subscriber identity is anonymous temporary SIP address.

25 16. A method according to claim 15, characterized in that the providing of the anonymous temporary SIP address is realized in an application server in an IP based network.

30 17. A method according to any of the claims 1-14, characterized in that the providing of the anonymous temporary subscriber identity is realized in an IN platform.

18. An arrangement for providing a communications network subscriber with an anonymous temporary subscriber
35 identity realized in a communications network having an

originating party A and a terminating party B connected to the network, the arrangement being characterized in that

- the terminating party B having means for requesting an anonymous temporary subscriber identity,
- 5 - the communications network having means for reserving an anonymous temporary subscriber identity to which the regular subscriber identity of the terminating party B in the communications network is associated,
- the communications network having means for providing
- 10 the anonymous temporary subscriber identity to the terminating party B,
- the terminating party B having means for associating his regular subscriber identity with the anonymous temporary subscriber identity,
- 15 - the terminating party B having means for announcing the received anonymous temporary subscriber identity in an open forum,
- a originating party A having means for initiating a communication path towards the anonymous temporary subscriber identity of the terminating party B in the communications network,
- 20 - the communications network having means for establishing a communication path between the originating party A and the terminating party B using the regular subscriber identity of the terminating party B associated with the
- 25 anonymous temporary subscriber identity.

19. An arrangement according to claim 18, characterized in that the terminating party B requests the anonymous

30 temporary subscriber identity via Internet.

20. An arrangement according to claim 18, characterized in that the terminating party B requests the anonymous temporary subscriber identity via an SMS-interface.

21. An arrangement according to claim 18, characterized in that the terminating party B requests the anonymous temporary subscriber identity via a WAP-interface.
- 5 22. An arrangement according to claim 18, characterized in that the terminating party B requests the anonymous temporary subscriber identity by dialing a number in the communications network.
- 10 23. An arrangement according to claim 18, characterized in that the terminating party B requests the anonymous temporary subscriber identity via an email-interface.
24. An arrangement according to any of the claims 18-23,
15 characterized in that the terminating party B requests several anonymous temporary subscriber identities.
25. An arrangement according to any of the claims 18-24,
20 characterized in that the terminating party B announces the received anonymous temporary subscriber identity in Television.
26. An arrangement according to any of the claims 18-24,
25 characterized in that the terminating party B announces the received anonymous temporary subscriber identity in a restricted open forum.
27. An arrangement according to the claim 26, characterized in that the restricted open forum is related to the
30 service providing the anonymous temporary subscriber identity.
28. An arrangement according to any of the claims 18-27,
35 characterized in that the originating party A initiating a communication path towards the terminating party B sup-

presses the subscriber identity in the communication path set up.

29. An arrangement according to any of the claims 18-27,
5 characterized in that the originating party A initiating a call to the terminating party B also uses an anonymous temporary subscriber identity provided by the communications network.

10 30. An arrangement according to any of the claims 18-29, characterized in that the terminating party B has means to terminate the use of the anonymous temporary subscriber identity.

15 31. An arrangement according to any of the claims 18-30, characterized in that the use of an anonymous temporary subscriber identity may be disabled for a certain time period.

20 32. An arrangement according to any of the claims 18-31, characterized in that the anonymous temporary subscriber identity is anonymous temporary SIP address.

25 33. An arrangement according to claim 32, characterized in that the providing of the anonymous temporary SIP address is realized in an application server in an IP based network.

30 34. An arrangement according to any of the claims 18-31, characterized in that the providing of the anonymous temporary subscriber identity is realized in an IN platform.